

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1501**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Andy Harris  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, FDA, &  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Agriculture,  
Rural Development, FDA, &  
Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop:

As you craft the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, and FDA, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$750,000 in community project funding for Sumner Daycare and Learning Center, Inc. The entity to receive the funding for this project is the Sumner Daycare and Learning Center, Inc., located at 601 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 301, Sumner, IA 50674. The project is located at 200 Block of North Railroad Street, Sumner, IA 50674

The Sumner Daycare and Learning Center is fundamental to the success of the economy in the three-county rural area it serves in Iowa's Second Congressional District. Expanding child care access is essential to Sumner, Iowa, which has a population of 2,032 and is located in a rural child care desert. Sumner Daycare is a non-profit child care facility that was created by members of the community in 2021 following a report that dozens of individuals and working families in the community needed child care access.

Sumner Daycare partners with the local elementary school to utilize their unused classrooms to serve as the child care facility. The daycare offers child care services for children aged 6 weeks through 12 years old and employs 12 staff members. Sumner Daycare has outgrown the space they utilize at the local elementary school and is in desperate need of a new facility to continue to operate and offer child care access to more members of the community. Funding for this project will enable Sumner Daycare to construct their own stand-alone facility in the community to provide quality, accessible child care. With this new facility, they would be able to hire more staff members, serve over 100 children, meet the needs of the rural community and workforce, and expand an affordability plan to assist low-income working families.

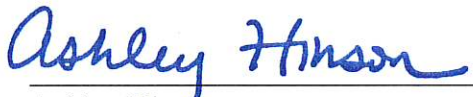
Employers, local businesses, and schools in Sumner have expressed their support for this project given their dependence on the availability of child care to drive the community's economy and

provide critical support to working families. This investment in a new facility for Sumner Daycare will greatly benefit the community and catalyze growth in this stagnant rural area, where working families are often moving away because of lack of child care access.

This project is vital for Sumner, Iowa, to recruit workers, grow their rural economy, and provide support to working and low-income families. Iowans deserve quality, accessible child care, and Sumner Daycare and Learning Center can fill that gap with the requested funding.

I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY24 Agriculture, Rural Development, and FDA, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. I appreciate your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations